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October 4, 2000

For Immediate Release:

EIU BUSINESS ALUMS TO BE RECOGNIZED FOR DONATION

CHARLESTON – A recognition ceremony honoring four Eastern Illinois University alumni for donating \$25,000 to the Lumpkin College of Business and Applied Sciences will take place Saturday, Oct. 7, as part of Homecoming 2000.

The ceremony will begin at approximately 10:30 a.m., immediately following the Homecoming Parade, in Lumpkin Hall Room 021.

Billy R. Dabbs of Effingham; James P. Evans of Paradise Valley, Ariz.; Jeffrey G. Scott of Reston, Va.; and Charles W. Witters of Las Vegas, will have the last ungifted room in Lumpkin Hall dedicated in their honor and in honor of their fraternity, Tau Kappa Epsilon.

"All four of these men were TKE, and they wanted to dedicate a room to their fraternity and their class of 1968," said Jacqueline S. Joines, director of development for LCBAS.

The donation further advances the "Taking Care of Business" campaign which was initiated when Lumpkin Hall was first constructed to generate financial support for the instructional and program needs of the School of Business, Joines said.

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"It has been a way for people to support the School of Business," she said.

Joines said Saturday's ceremony was planned around Homecoming 2000 since the TKE organization is planning a reunion on campus at the same time and many alumni will be on Eastern's campus.

"This event has helped us with our homecoming efforts and in celebrating Homecoming 2000," Joines said.

Dabbs, a native of Aurora, graduated from Eastern with a degree in accounting. He formed Brumleve and Dabbs, CPA, in 1972, and, 10 years later, also co-founded Professional Software Inc. At PSI, he served as executive vice president of sales and marketing. In 1989, PSI was sold to Hills Pet Nutrition, a division of Colgate, but Dabbs continued to serve as director of practice service development until his retirement in 1996.

Evans, originally of Mattoon, received a degree in marketing and entered into the hospitality industry in 1970. From 1975 to 1996, he served with the Hyatt organization in a variety of positions, including senior vice president of sales and marketing. He has also served as executive vice president of operations for Doubletree Hotels. Evans was named president and CEO of Best Western International in October 1998.

Scott, who is a native of Salem and also received a degree in marketing from Eastern, began his career with Sagemark Consulting (formerly CIGNA Financial Advisors) as a sales representative in January of 1971. He was appointed regional vice president in 1983, having rapidly moved through CIGNA's management system. He has been awarded Eastern's Outstanding Alumnus Award, has received the Lumpkin School of Business' Distinguished Alumni Award and has served as an executive-in-residence for the School of Business. Scott recently published a book, "21st Century Wealth," a personal financial investment book based

on years of experience in the investment industry.

Witters, who grew up in Charleston, graduated from Eastern with a bachelor's degree in business and received his MBA in finance from Illinois State University. He spent 14 years dealing with management, marketing and finance with corporations such as Mobil, Occidental Petroleum and Fluor. In 1984, Witters joined Lee & Associates and, in 1987, became a founding partner of Lee & Associates' Ontario office. He has been with the Las Vegas, Nev., office, where he is a senior vice president, since 1993.

Joines said since the planning of this ceremony, others have become interested in donating money to honor their fraternities, parents and others.

"The announcement of this gift and the planning of this ceremony has brought in more gifts," she said. "Other naming opportunities are available for people who donate gifts to the Lumpkin College of Business and Applied Sciences, including rooms in Klehm Hall which houses part of the college."

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MEDIA NOTE: Photos of Mr. Dabbs, Mr. Evans, Mr. Scott and Mr. Witters can be found at:

<http://www.eiu.edu/~pubaff/TKEdonation.html>